

Annotated Bibliography

This bibliography has been compiled by Marshall Steinbaum, who served as the inaugural intern at the Rutgers Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience for the summer of 2000.

Walberg, Herbert J. et al eds. *Children and Youth: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. London: Sage Publications, 1997.

This collection of essays is divided into three topics, all under the umbrella of understanding adolescents and the culture and surroundings of their lives. The categories are: family, schools, and health. Identifying the positive and negative impact of families on youth is the unifying theme throughout the family section. Understanding how and why certain adolescents thrive or don't thrive in the institution known as school is the goal of the schools section. Identifying the impact of health or the lack thereof on the lives of adolescents is the theme in the health section.

Lefkowitz, Bernard. *Tough Change: Growing up on Your Own in America*. New York: The Free Press, 1987.

Through the use of life stories and accounts by adolescents in America, this book provides a compelling window in looking at how adolescence is experienced. The author examines different facts of an adolescent's life: early childhood, school, family, and "street life," and puts them in both a historical perspective and a comparative one, using the experiences of children from all over the country.

Hazlehurst, Kayleen and Cameron, eds. *Gangs and Youth Subcultures: International Explorations*. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers, 1998.

This is a compilation of essays on a variety of gangs from all over the world. The essential question in all of the essays is: "What, in the environment in which the gang members live, causes them to form or participate in gangs?" To answer this question, the essays look everywhere from Orange County to Papua New Guinea. The answers are unified under the idea of "Multiple Marginality," which means that if the environment in which children live "marginalizes" them in several ways, including socioeconomic distress and familial instability, the children have a tendency to establish their own strongholds of security, in the form of gangs.

Kozol, Jonathan. *Amazing Grace: The Lives of youth and the Conscience of a Nation*. New York: Crown Publishers, 1995.

This book is essentially a portrait of life as a child and adolescent in the Mott Haven neighborhood of the Bronx. The structure of the book is that the author tells specific stories, then draws conclusions by comparing statistics and using other outside information. His conclusion is that from birth, a vast majority of the children he writes about are doomed to early death,

either literal or figurative, through no fault of their own and little fault of their parents.

Giroux, Henry A. *Channel Surfing: Race Talk and the Destruction of Today's Youth*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997.

This is a comprehensive look at how race and youth are misunderstood by the adult community and white establishment. Thus youth, especially African American and Hispanic youth, are seen as hordes of violent, profane criminals, on whom the onus for all American troubles rests. Giroux blames this situation explicitly on the conservative political establishment, saying such things as, "Conservative ideologues refuse to deal with the real problems threatening American democracy while simultaneously blaming youth for living out the legacy of what has become a mythical rendering of the sixties."

Cohen, Phil. *Rethinking the Youth Question: Education, Labour, and Cultural Studies*. Durham NC: Duke University Press, 1999.

This is a history of youth culture in Britain from 1969 to the present by a self-professed radical. Most of the narrative is descriptions of broad political and social movements, backed up by stories and experiences from the author's own life. He essentially blames Thatcherism for misunderstanding and therefore alienating British youth.

Furstenburg, Frank et al. *Managing to Make It: Urban Families and Adolescent Success*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999.

This is the report from a study done with adolescents in Philadelphia. The point of the study was to find the environments that foster adolescent success in disadvantaged communities. The results are not surprising: familial stability, a functional neighborhood, and regularly enforced discipline in academics, athletics, or extra-curricular activities all are indicators for successful adolescents. The broad conclusion of the study is: "We have learned that adolescents vary tremendously in their skills and competencies."

McLaughlin, Milbrey et al. *Urban Sanctuaries: Neighborhood Organizations in the Lives and Futures of Inner-city Youth*. San Francisco: Josey-Bass Publishers, 1994.

This book attempts to define how neighborhood organizations can become pivotal in the lives of their members and the community. The recipe for such an important youth organization, according to the book, includes: a very stable, almost rigid structure that contrasts with the unpredictability of the street, a personal environment where members consider the organization their family, and an all-embracing, multi-

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disciplinary venue where members can spend all of their free time engaged in productive activities.

Giroux, Henry A. *Fugitive Cultures: Race, Violence, and Youth*. New York: Routledge, 1996.

The thesis of this book is that the conglomerate of a hostile media, a greedy Hollywood, and a bigoted, powerful Republican party all combine to marginalize, devalue, and ultimately smother urban, minority adolescents. Giroux takes a very wide view of contemporary culture, using the wide and indiscriminate brush of bigotry to taint everything from *Pulp Fiction* to *The Little Mermaid*. The book in fact provides compelling evidence and analysis for its conclusions. The solution to these problems, according to Giroux, is the adoption of "Cultural Studies," a deconstructionalist system for education that emphasizes relative cultural values and discounts absolute morals.

Plympton, Tia Jean. *Homeless Youth Creating Their Own Street Families*. New York: Garland Publishing, 1997.

This study paints a very interesting picture of homeless youth "families." Plympton draws extensively from the words of the subjects themselves, many of whom provide startling revelations. The overall feeling of the study is that homeless youth do indeed have very strong family structures, and those structures allow intellectual, artistic, and emotional pursuits that one does not usually link to homelessness.

Sheley, Joseph F. and James D. Wright. *In the Line of Fire: Youth, Guns, and Violence in Urban America*. New York: Aldine de Gruyter, 1995.

This is a study on guns in the lives of urban youth, both in high schools and reformatories. The book is a long list of statistics, forming a picture of the pervasion of guns in the inner city. It is not very interesting to read since every page has a different data table to decode and the text itself is a list of numbers.

Kozol, Jonathan. *Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools*. New York: Crown Publishers, 1991.

This book looks at six different disadvantaged school districts from different parts of the United States. The book is comparable to a realist painting; it seeks to move or shock by showing the unadulterated image. That image is a scary and depressing one; the feeling one gets is long term hopelessness for public education.

Heath, Shirley Brice and Milbrey W. McLaughlin eds. *Identity and Inner City Youth: Beyond Ethnicity and Gender*. New York: Teachers College Press, 1993.

It is difficult to define exactly what the goal or thesis of this collection of essays is. The best way of thinking of it is as an attempt to define the Weltanschauung of urban youth. To do that, each chapter addresses a certain aspect of inner city youths' lives. As such, the book's subtitle is ridiculous. The book does not focus on one ethnicity or gender, but to try to go "beyond" ethnicity and gender is missing the point in terms of the Weltanschauung of inner city youth. Thankfully, the essays do consider ethnicity and gender as parts of those ideologies.

Books and articles written by City Children Guest Lecturers:

Anderson, Elijah. *Street Wise: Race, Class, and Change in an Urban Community*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990.

Carl Nightingale, *On the Edge: A History of Poor Black Children and their American Dreams*. New York: Basic Books, 1993.

Carl Nightingale, "The Global Inner City: Towards a Historical Investigation." In *W.E.B DuBois, Race and the City*, ed. Michael B. Katz and Thomas J. Sugrue Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1998.

Fordham, Signithia. *Black Out: Dilemmas of Race, Identity, and Success at Capital High*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.

Terry Williams, *The Uptown Kids: Hope and Struggle in the Projects* New York: Putnam/Grosset, 1994.

Terry Williams, *Crackhouse* New York: Penquin Books, 1992.

Terry Williams, *The Cocaine Kids* New York: Addison-Wesely Publishers, 1989